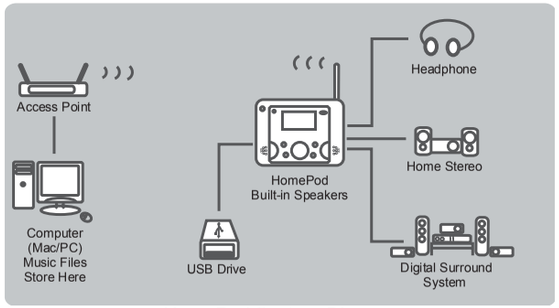
Macsense HomePod
Quick Start Guide

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for purchasing HomePod. HomePod streams digital audio files stored on your computer, over the local network (either by wired Ethernet or over a wireless Wi-Fi network).

Most of the time, HomePod will be used in a wireless environment. A typical wireless network setup involves a computer connected to a wireless router (or an access point) to form a wireless network. HomePod would then connect wirelessly to this same network.

Note: The terms "wireless router", "access point", and "base station" are sometimes used interchangeably in this manual. Wireless router is a device that combines the functions of an access point plus a switching hub. Base station is a common term used in the Mac community to refer to an access point.



HomePod System Diagram

Your HomePod can be placed anywhere in the house or office where the wireless network has coverage. The audio files stored on your computer can then be played through HomePod's built-in stereo speakers, attached headphones, home stereo system, or a high-end digital surround sound system.

Note: An audio file, such as an MP3 file, is a file that may include music, speech, narrative, or audio book content. The term "audio server" is used to describe a computer on your network that contains audio files that will be served to the HomePod.

The audio collection stored on your computer is recognized by the HomePod as an "Audio Server". Each computer with audio content requires that the HomePod Audio Server Software be installed and running to make the audio collection available to the HomePod.

One HomePod can access audio content from multiple computers around the home or office. Conversely, multiple HomePods can simultaneously access content from the same computer.

This Quick Start Guide is designed to facilitate easy installation of the HomePod. Please read the entire document to ensure a successful installation and proper usage.

Package Contents:

1. One HomePod Unit
2. Power Adapter
3. Remote Control
4. Ethernet Cable
5. Stereo Audio Cable
6. Installer CD
7. Quick Start Guide (this document)
8. User Manual

System Requirements:

1. Wi-Fi (802.11b/g) Access Point or Wireless Router
2. Macintosh G3 or Pentium III PC
3. Mac OS 9/X or Windows 98/Me/2000/XP

SOFTWARE INSTALL

A small server program, called HomePod Audio Server, must be installed on each computer that contains audio files that you want to play through the HomePod. Use the HomePod CD and follow instructions below to complete the software installation.

Windows Installation

On the PC, insert the HomePod CD and run the HomePod Audio Server->Setup.exe.

HomePod Audio Server is based on Java. For Windows PC's (98/Me/2000/XP), the installer will alert you to install or upgrade Java (JRE) if you haven't already.

install
HomePod Audio Server Requires the Java Runtime Environment. HomePod installer will install or upgrade this environment if necessary. Would you like to install the Java Runtime Environment?
Yes
No

Message alerting JRE installation

Click Yes to install Java Runtime Environment (JRE) into your PC. The process may take a few moments. Let it run to completion without interrupting the process. If your PC already has Java installed and you don't want to upgrade to the latest version, then click No.

When the installation is complete, you will see a new C:\Program Files\HomePod\Audio Server\ directory as shown below and a new entry in Start Menu->Programs->HomePod->Audio Server->HomePod Audio Server.

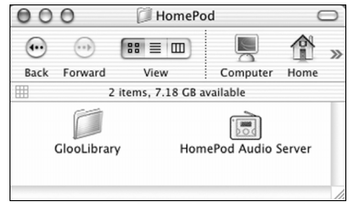
Contents of the Windows HomePod Audio Server folder

Macintosh Installation

On the Mac, insert the HomePod CD and run the HomePod Audio Server.pkg installer.

You will need to have the administrator password in order to proceed with the installation. Follow the instructions on screen to complete the installation.

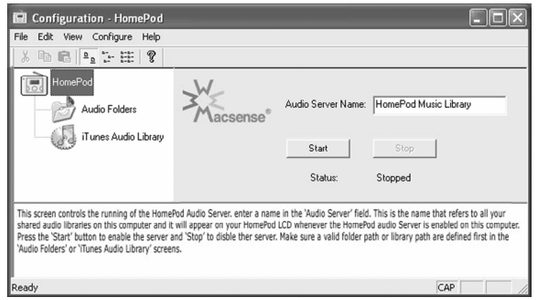
When the installation is complete, you should see a new "HomePod" folder in the Applications folder.



HomePod Audio Server folder content for Mac

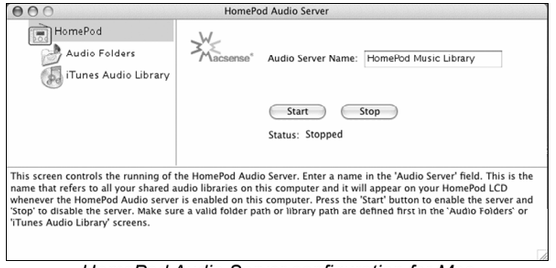
SOFTWARE CONFIGURATION

To launch the Windows HomePod Audio Server configuration program, double-click on the HomePod Audio Server icon or select Start->Programs-> HomePod->Audio Server->HomePod Audio Server.


Configuration - HomePod
File Edit View Configure Help
HomePod
Audio Folders
iTunes Audio Library
Audio Server Name: HomePod Music Library
Start
Stop
Status: Stopped
This screen controls the running of the HomePod Audio Server. enter a name in the 'Audio Server' field. This is the name that refers to all your shared audio libraries on this computer and it will appear on your HomePod LCD whenever the HomePod audio Server is enabled on this computer. Press the 'Start' button to enable the server and 'Stop' to disble ther server. Make sure a valid folder path or library path are defined first in the 'Audio Folders' or 'iTunes Audio Library' screens.
Ready
CAP

HomePod Audio Server configuration for Windows

To start the HomePod Audio Server program on the Mac, go to the Applications menu and double-click on the HomePod Audio Server icon.


HomePod Audio Server
HomePod
Audio Folders
iTunes Audio Library
Audio Server Name: HomePod Music Library
Start
Stop
Status: Stopped
This screen controls the running of the HomePod Audio Server. Enter a name in the 'Audio Server' field. This is the name that refers to all your shared audio libraries on this computer and it will appear on your HomePod LCD whenever the HomePod Audio server is enabled on this computer. Press the 'Start' button to enable the server and 'Stop' to disable the server. Make sure a valid folder path or library path are defined first in the 'Audio Folders' or 'iTunes Audio Library' screens.

HomePod Audio Server configuration for Mac

Note: The HomePod Audio Server program for PC and Mac are identical in function and user interface, so screen shots will be used interchangeably in this manual.

The HomePod Audio Server Configuration application allows you to set up and control your audio collection. From this application, you can define the audio content to be shared, name your audio collection, and start or stop the server. Once your audio server is configured and started, your library will recognized by the HomePod.

The window is divided into three frames. The icons in the left side frame can be selected to view different configuration settings in the right side frame. The bottom frame contains help information for each configuration option. Closing the application will minimize the window to the task tray. You can double-click on the tray icon to open the configuration window again.

Server Control

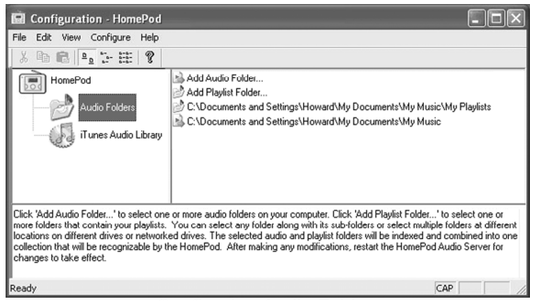
Click on the HomePod icon in the left side frame to bring up the main server controls. This window allows you to monitor and configure the server settings. The "Audio Server Name" field defines a specific name for your audio collection that will be displayed on the HomePod. Examples of some good names are, "John's Audio Collection", "Bedroom Collection", or "Living Room Audio Library".

Once you have named you audio collection, you need to define the contents of your collection. There are two ways to define which audio files you want included in your collection: by **Audio Folders** or by **iTunes Audio Library**. Other methods will be added to HomePod Audio Server in the future. If you are using iTunes to manage your audio collection, proceed to the Configuring iTunes Audio Library section.

Configuring Audio Folders

An **Audio Folder** is any directory that contains audio files (such as MP3 files). This is the most generic way of configuring the Audio Server to locate your audio files. By specifying an Audio Folder, all the audio files in that directory (including any subdirectories) will become part of your collection. You can specify more than one Audio Folder, and all the contents will be combined into one collected and recognized by the HomePod.

When you click on the Audio Folders icon on the left, you will be presented with two "Add" options on the right:


Configuration - HomePod
File Edit View Configure Help
HomePod
Audio Folders
iTunes Audio Library
Add Audio Folder...
Add Playlist Folder...
C:\Documents and Settings\Howard\My Documents\My Music\My Playlists
C:\Documents and Settings\Howard\My Documents\My Music
Click 'Add Audio Folder...' to select one or more audio folders on your computer. Click 'Add Playlist Folder...' to select one or more folders that contain your playlists. You can select any folder along with its sub-folders or select multiple folders at different locations on different drives or networked drives. The selected audio and playlist folders will be indexed and combined into one collection that will be recognizable by the HomePod. After making any modifications, restart the HomePod Audio Server for changes to take effect.
Ready
CAP

Configuring Audio Folders

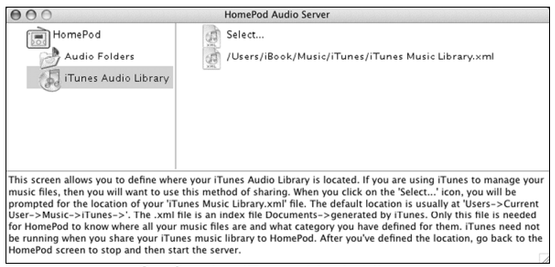
To add an Audio Folder, click on the “Add Audio Folder…” icon and locate the folder that contains your audio files. This may be your C:\My Documents\My Audio\ directory, or any folder with your audio files that you'd like to include in your collection. The path to the folder you just added will be listed on the right frame. You can also configure the Audio Server to recognize your existing playlists. To add your playlists, click on the “Add Playlist Folder…” and select the top level folder that contains your playlist files (.M3U).

After the configuration is complete, click the HomePod icon on the left frame to return to the server control frame. Press the “Start” button to activate the Audio Server.

Configuring iTunes Audio Library

If you are using Apple’s iTunes software to manage your audio files, then you should select this method as the preferred way of configuring your audio collection so that the HomePod shares the iTunes song and playlist information.

When you click on the iTunes Audio Library icon on the left side frame, you will see a “Select…” icon on the right:


HomePod Audio Server
HomePod
Audio Folders
iTunes Audio Library
Select...
/Users/iBook/Music/iTunes/iTunes Music Library.xml
This screen allows you to define where your iTunes Audio Library is located. If you are using iTunes to manage your music files, then you will want to use this method of sharing. When you click on the 'Select...' icon, you will be prompted for the location of your 'iTunes Music Library.xml' file. The default location is usually at 'Users->Current User->Music->iTunes->'. The .xml file is an index file Documents->generated by iTunes. Only this file is needed for HomePod to know where all your music files are and what category you have defined for them. iTunes need not be running when you share your iTunes music library to HomePod. After you've defined the location, go back to the HomePod screen to stop and then start the server.

Configuring iTunes Music Library

Click on the “Select…” icon to locate and open the “iTunes Music Library.xml” file in the iTunes folder. The .xml file contains the complete index to the iTunes Music Library songs and playlists.

To share an iTunes Music Library with the HomePod, the iTunes program need not be running.

After the configuration is complete, click the HomePod icon on the left side frame to return to the main server control frame. Press the “Start” button to activate the Audio Server.

HOMEPOD SETUP

There are two ways to connect the HomePod to your network, **wired** (with an Ethernet cable) or **wirelessly** (through Wi-Fi). When HomePod is first powered up, it will try to detect if an Ethernet cable is attached. If it is, the Ethernet connectivity will have priority over wireless connectivity. If an Ethernet cable is not connected to the HomePod at startup, the HomePod’s wireless connection will be activated. For most users, HomePod will be used in a wireless environment so the Ethernet port need not be used. Follow the instruction below for each connection setup.

Wired Setup

Before turning on the HomePod, connect it to your network with the enclosed Ethernet cable. HomePod can be connected to a wireless router or a switching hub. Next, plug in HomePod and turn it on. The boot up process will take about 20 seconds, after which HomePod should discover any Audio Servers that have been activated.

Wireless Setup

Make sure that you have already set up a wireless router or access point (base station) to form your wireless 802.11 b/g network. Your computers and HomePod must be in the same domain as the router (e.g. all must be in 192.168.1.x). Confirm that the DHCP server on the access point is running so that your computers and HomePod can automatically obtain IP addresses automatically (this is usually on by default). If you have WEP encryption enabled in the access point, turn it off for now; you can turn it back on later after the HomePod is running smoothly. Next, plug in the power adapter and turn on the HomePod. The boot up process will take about 20 seconds, after which HomePod should discover any Audio Servers that have been activated.

If the HomePod is unable to find any Audio Servers even though they are running, try the following: Turn off HomePod. Connect the HomePod to the router by a wired Ethernet cable, and then turn on the HomePod again. When HomePod reaches the main screen, go to Network Settings and locate its IP Address. Once the IP is known (say 192.168.1.3), open a browser on any computer on the network and log into HomePod, e.g. type http://192.168.1.3/ in the browser. Once you are at the configuration screen, go to the Wireless Settings tab and look for the SSID field. Change the SSID from the default value of “ANY” to the exact name of your access point (you can get the SSID of your access point by logging into your access point). Click Save and then disconnect the Ethernet cable and reboot HomePod. In a multi-access point environment, setting the SSID to match your access point will help HomePod connect to it much more easily.

If you still have trouble finding an Audio Server, refer to the Troubleshooting section in the Appendix section of the manual. Also review the Wireless Settings Page details in the Web Configuration section of the manual.

BASIC OPERATIONS

HomePod will automatically detect and list any Audio Servers found on the network, listing one line for each audio library. If no libraries are detected, then the first line will display “Searching for Audio Servers”. Click the MENU button to refresh the list of Audio Servers.

Main Menu

Use the following buttons on the HomePod to control and navigate the content on the HomePod.

Content Navigational Buttons

The audio library is organized as a tree structure.

Use the rotating dial to navigate up and down any list.

Press the ENTER button to select an item in the list, or press the MENU button to come out of a list.

Functional Buttons

- To play a song, press the ENTER button or the ⏯ button when the song is highlighted on the list.
- To pause a playing song, press the ⏯ button. Press ⏯ again to resume play.
- If you are playing a collection of songs (such as an album or random play mode) press the ⏭ button to skip to the next.
- To jump to the beginning of a song while it is playing, press the ⏮ button.
- If you’re using the built-in speaker or the headphones port, to increase the volume, press the + button; to decrease the volume, press the − button.

Shuffle/Loop Mode Buttons

- To shuffle a list of songs, while a list of songs is playing in the play mode, press the 🔀 button. Press 🔀 again to exit shuffle mode.
- To repeat a song or list of songs, press the 🔁 button while a song is playing. If an individual song was selected, the Loop function will repeat that one song over and over. If the playing song is part of playing list, then the whole list of songs will repeat once completed.

FM Radio buttons:

- To start FM Radio, at the main menu, scroll to "FM Radio" and press ENTER button.
- To jump to the next preset station, click the NEXT button.
- To jump to the previous preset station, click the PREV button.
- To adjust the frequency of the tuner, rotate the dial right and left.

WEB CONFIGURATION

HomePod includes a built-in web configuration page that you can access from any browser (Internet Explorer, Apple Safari, AOL Netscape, etc.) on a computer connected to the network. You can set many of the advanced functions using this configuration.

HomePod - Microsoft Internet Explorer
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Address http://192.168.1.100/
IP Settings
Wireless Settings
Miscellaneous
Radio Stations
Firmware Upgrade
HomePod Web Configuration Pages
These pages contain important networking and configuration settings for your HomePod. Use the tabs at the top to jump to the particular configuration page directly. After you have made your changes, click the Save button at the bottom of the page to save the changes. Some settings may require you to restart the HomePod.
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Internet

To access the web configuration page:

Launch your browser and type in the IP address of the HomePod; e.g. if your HomePod's IP address is 192.168.1.3, then type "http://192.168.1.3" in your browser (to obtain HomePod’s IP address, navigate to Settings:Network Settings:Network Info).

When prompted for a username and password, leave username blank and type "admin" as the password. "admin" is the default password and can be changed after the first time you log into the device. Make sure to note your new password if you change it.

For instructions on how to use the web-config pages, please refer to the manual.

CONTACT

For additional information in solving problems with your HomePod, contact Macsense Tech Support.
Technical Support Hours: 9am – 4:30pm PST
Phone: 1-800-642-8860 x100 (Free Support)
Email: *support@macsense.com*
Web: *http://www.macsense.com/knowledgebase*

Register your product online to be informed of the latest product upgrades and promotions.
http://www.macsense.com/registration/

We upgrade firmware periodically to include support on new functions and bug fixes. Remember to check website for the latest updates.
http://www.macsense.com/homepod/

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